

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATING DATA PACKETS USING A
BACKPLANE SWITCH COUPLED TO A BACKPLANE

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A communications device includes a backplane, backplane cards, and a
backplane switch. Each backplane card is coupled to the backplane and assigned an
industry standard-based network address. The backplane switch, also coupled to the
backplane, receives a first data packet with a first network address assigned to a
backplane card and communicates the first data packet to the backplane card using the
backplane.